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GENEVA FOR RMA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARRY R MELONE DATE/CASE ID: 02 NOV 2006 200103014

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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/C, MGRW02, PRM/AAA, PM/ISP, IO/PHO, IO/ESA, IO/UNP/ DRL/AAA

USAID FOR AID/A, AID/BHR, AID/BHR/OFDA, AID/BHR/FFP, AID/PPC

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREF, PREL, PHUM, EAID, MOPS, RW, FR

SUBJECT: MGRW02: OPERATION TURQUOISE DEVELOPMENTS

- 1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.
- 2. SUMMARY: TWO RWANDAN ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANCE FROM THE FRENCH PERSPECTIVE WERE P.M. BALLADUR'S JULY 26 RADIO INTERVIEW ON OPERATION TURQUOISE AND A HEADS-UP FROM THE QUAI THAT THE RPF HAD TEMPORARILY REVERSED ITSELF CONFIDENTIAL

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ON THE TRANSFER OF AFRICAN TROOPS FROM TURQUOISE TO UNAMIR. END SUMMARY

- 3. P.M. EDOUARD BALLADUR'S LONG INTERVIEW LAST NIGHT ON RFI, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TODAY (JULY 27) FOR AFRICA, DEVOTED SEVERAL MINUTES TO QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON OPERATION TURQUOISE. BALLADUR DUCKED A QUESTION ON WHETHER FRENCH TROOPS WOULD REMAIN IN THE HUMANITARIAN ZONE (HZ) AFTER AUGUST 21 IF UNAMIR UNITS WERE NOT IN PLACE. HE REPLIED ONLY THAT HE "COULD NOT BELIEVE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CANNOT GET A FEW THOUSAND TROOPS IN PLACE BY THE DEADLINE, GIVEN THAT THE TERMINAL DATE FOR OUR MANDATE HAS BEEN KNOWN FROM THE START."
- 4. RESPONDING TO CRITICISM THAT OPERATION TURQUOISE HAS HELPED MOBUTU GET BACK IN THE GOOD GRACES OF WORLD OPINION, BALLADUR SAID ZAIRE HAD "OPENED ITS TERRITORY TO OUR HUMANITARIAN ACTION...AND WE HAVE DEALT WITH THE COUNTRY'S AUTHORITIES. WOULD YOU SUGGEST WE REJECT THEIR HELP?," HE INQUIRED.
- 5. BALLADUR ALSO RESPONDED TO A QUERY ON FRANCE'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO CALLS FOR A WAR CRIMES

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TRIBUNAL, BY SAYING "WE RESPECT ALL UN DECISIONS" AND WILL SUPPORT THEIR ACTION, BUT "WE WILL NOT BE THE POLICE IN THIS AFFAIR" TO MAKE ARRESTS.

6. A QUAI SOURCE TOLD US THAT PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU
REJECTED THE DEAL CUT BY P.M. TWAGIRAMUNGU AND QUAI
SECGEN DUFOURCQ TO ALLOW THE TRANSFER OF AFRICAN UNITS
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PAGE 04 PARIS 20565 271705Z
FROM OPERATION TURQUOISE TO UNAMIR. THE GOF HOPES TO
TURN THIS AROUND, BUT WILL DELAY INTEGRATING FURTHER
AFRICAN ELEMENTS INTO TURQUOISE.
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